

November 5, 2009

Dear Administrator,

The Office of Public Instruction (OPI) and the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) would like to invite you to participate in an important statewide initiative. On February 9-10, 2010, the OPI is hosting the first collaborative school mental health conference. The OPI and the DPHHS are bringing together Comprehensive School and Community Treatment (CSCT) program administrators and key superintendents and principals from across the state to create a Montana Framework for School Mental Health. This collaborative training/planning session will be facilitated by the nationally recognized leader in the field, Mark Weist, Director of the Center for School Mental Health.

In preparation for this initiative, the OPI and the DPHHS ask that you or your staff complete the short School Mental Health Survey. This survey is anonymous and may be taken online at: http://www.opi.mt.gov/survey/mental_health/. If necessary, a paper copy of this survey may be obtained by calling 406-444-5661. The results from this survey are confidential and will help identify the common needs in school mental health across the state and inform the planning for the February conference.

If you are ready to commit to attending the February training/planning session, please fill out and return the enclosed registration form. Consider your Five-Year Comprehensive Education Plan when thinking about attending this conference. This school mental health initiative aligns with correlates four (School Culture) and five (Student, Family, Community Support Programs/Services) and could help your school/district meet the goals set forth in the learning environment section of your plan. Thank you for your commitment to the health and well-being of Montana's students. We look forward to working with you in February.

Sincerely,

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Enclosure